

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) Method for forming transport frames to be transmitted on a
2 communication channel, from coded-signal frames, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises
3 at least one set of bits to be protected against transmission errors, the method comprising the
4 steps of:

- 5 - calculating a respective error detection code for at least one subset of bits included in said
6 at least one set; and
- 7 - placing said at least one subset of bits in a respective transport frame with the error
8 detection code calculated therefor,

9 wherein at least some of the transport frames contain a plurality of subsets of bits, emanating
10 from different coded-signal frames and accompanied by the respective error detection codes
11 calculated therefor and wherein the transport frames and the coded-signal frames comprise the
12 same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal frames is inserted into M
13 consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that $N > M$.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of bits of
2 said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error
3 detection code calculated for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of
4 said subset.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in each transport
2 frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the
3 total number of bits of said error detection codes.

1 4. (Currently Amended) Device for forming transport frames to be transmitted on a
2 communication channel, from coded-signal frames, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises
3 at least one set of bits to be protected against transmission errors, including at least one subset of
4 bits, the device comprising:

5 - means for calculating a respective error detection code for said at least one subset of bits;
6 and

7 - multiplexing means for placing said at least one subset of bits in a transport frame with
8 the error detection code calculated therefor,

9 wherein the multiplexing means are arranged to place a plurality of subsets of bits, emanating
10 from different coded-signal frames and accompanied by the respective error detection codes
11 calculated therefor, in at least some of the transport frames, and wherein the transport frames and
12 the coded-signal frames are of the same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal
13 frames is inserted into M consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that $N > M$.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the number of bits of
2 said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error
3 detection code calculated for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of
4 said subset.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in each transport
2 frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the
3 total number of bits of said error detection codes.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, further comprising coding
2 means for applying, in each transport frame, an error correcting code to a block formed by the
3 subsets of bits originating from said sets of bits to be protected and by the error detection codes
4 respectively calculated therefor.

1 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting coded-signal frames from transport frames
2 received on a communication channel, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises at least one
3 set of bits protected against transmission errors, including at least one subset of bits, the device
4 comprising demultiplexing means for extracting from each transport frame at least one of said
5 subsets of bits, along with a respective error detection code, wherein the demultiplexing means
6 are arranged to extract a plurality of subsets of bits from at least some of the transport frames,
7 and to distribute the extracted subsets of bits, associated with their respective error detection
8 codes, in different coded-signal frames, and wherein the transport frames and the coded-signal
9 frames are of the same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal frames is
10 extracted from M consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that $N > M$.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the number of bits of
2 said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error
3 detection code for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of said subset.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein, in each transport
2 frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the
3 total number of bits of said error detection codes.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising decoding
2 means for correcting transmission errors in a block formed, in each transport frame, by the bits
3 pertaining to said sets of protected bits and by said error detection codes.

1 13. (Cancelled)